

process. As “the source of ultimate courage” for many persons, religion often provides final consolation and ultimate direction in the face of death, and it should be recognized and respected for that.

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Hospital Parking Garage

He is just my father's age
and her nightgown blazes in a paper bag,
an open grief of objects
marked Property of Ida Jennings.

Who will hold him in the bluish glow of morning?
He climbs into an old gray car
and sets the paper bag carefully
on the seat beside him.

He has no talent for making up a life.
Flowered bedsheets surprise him.
Tonight he will have much to hear,
years ticking in every creak and sound.

His hands lie idle in his lap, then he turns
the key. Everywhere the world is disappearing.

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